

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 15, 2010

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES RAID WEST VALLEY BUSINESS AND ARREST 17 SUSPECTED ILLEGAL ALIENS

***Detectives Determined That Victim's Identities were Being Used by
Landscaping Company Employees***

(Maricopa County, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies today raided Nunez Creative Landscaping, an El Mirage business located at 12225 West Peoria Avenue. The raid came as a result of a tip to the Sheriff's Illegal Immigration Hotline that dozens of employees there were using falsified identification to gain employment.

Sheriff's deputies served search warrants at the business today looking for employee files and records related to the 26 targeted suspects believed to be living and working in the country illegally by utilizing false identification documents. In total about 52 people are employed at the business.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says that during today's early morning raid, a total of 17 employees were taken into custody.

Deputies believe that of those 17 arrested, 11 workers were targets of the investigation and are suspected of using false identification to gain employment. The investigation is continuing at this hour.

This morning's investigation is the 40th criminal employment operation. The previous 39 investigations conducted by Sheriff's deputies into businesses where employees were engaged in identity theft have resulted in the arrests of nearly 500 employees.

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Despite the recent controversy over SB1070, Sheriff Arpaio stated that his office will continue to enforce all aspects of illegal immigration laws. His office has arrested, investigated, or detained over 42,000 illegal aliens either on the streets or inside the jail system, Arpaio says.

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